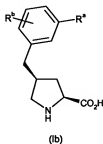


**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. – 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (Ib):



wherein R<sup>a</sup> is selected from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, amino, hydroxycarbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl, hydroxyC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxyC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, perfluoroC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylamino, di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylamino, aminoC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylaminoC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylaminoC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, and C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>acyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>acyloxy, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>acyloxyC<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>acylamino, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylthio, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylthiocarbonyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylthiooxo, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxycarbonyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylsulfonyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylsulfonamide, aminesulfonyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylaminosulfonyl, di-C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylaminosulfonyl, 3-8 membered cycloalkyl, 4-8 membered heterocycloalkyl, phenyl and monocyclic heteroaryl;

R<sup>9</sup> is selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy cyano, nitro, amino, hydroxycarbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, hydroxyC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxyC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, perfluoro C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, perfluoroC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylamino, di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylamino, aminoC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylaminoC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylaminoC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, and C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>acyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>acyloxy, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>acyloxyC<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>acylamino, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylthio, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylthiocarbonyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylthio, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxycarbonyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylsulfonfyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylsulfonfylamino, aminosulfonfyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylaminosulfonfyl, di-C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylaminosulfonfyl, 3-8 membered cycloalkyl, 4-8 membered heterocycloalkyl, phenyl and monocyclic heteroaryl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. -17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (1b) according to claim 15 which is selected from the group consisting of:

~~(2S,4S) 4-(3-Fluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid:~~

(2S,4S)-4-(2,3-Difluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid; and

(2S,4S)-4-(2,5-Difluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (1b) according to claim 15, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents or carriers.

21. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (1b) according to claim 15, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and at least one other therapeutically active agent.

22. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition combination according to claim 21, wherein the other therapeutically active agent is a PDEV inhibitor selected from sildenafil, vardenafil, tadalafil, 1-[6-ethoxy-5-[3-ethyl-6,7-dihydro-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-7-oxo-2H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl]-3-pyridylsulfonyl]-4-ethylpiperazine, 5-(5-acetyl-2-butoxy-3-pyridinyl)-3-ethyl-2-(1-ethyl-3-azetidinyl)-2,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one and 5-[2-ethoxy-5-(4-ethylpiperazin-1-ylsulphonyl)pyridin-3-yl]-3-ethyl-2-[2-methoxyethyl]-2,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one.

23. - 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The compound (2S,4S)-4-(3-Fluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

28. (Withdrawn) The compound (2S,4S)-4-(2,3-Difluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. (Withdrawn) The compound (2S,4S)-4-(2,5-Difluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

31. (New) The salt, (2S,4S)-4-(3-Fluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid mono hydrochloride salt.